

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 61-72 are cancelled. Claims 55-60 and 73-74 are pending in the application.

Applicant notes the Examiner's indicated Allowability of claims 55-60 and 73-74.

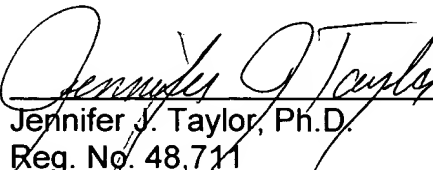
Claims 1-3 and 61-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various cited combinations of Dunlop, U.S. Patent No. 5,590,389; Kawazoe, U.S. Patent No. 5,826,456; Kobayashi, U.S. Patent No. 5,722,165; "Heat Treating of Aluminum Alloys"; Drauglis, U.S. Patent No. 4,374,717; Siewert, U.S. Patent No. 4,466,940; Nalepka, U.S. Patent No. 4,883,721, and Takahashi, EP 0,882,813. Without admission as to the propriety of any of the Examiner's rejections, claims 1-3 and 61-72 are cancelled in order to allow the application to proceed to issue.

Pending claims 55-60 and 73-74 are indicated as allowable by the Examiner and are the only claims that remain pending in the application. Accordingly, the application is in condition for immediate allowance and applicant requests formal allowance of claims 55-60 and 73-74 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 17, 2003

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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